

REPORT

—AND—

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION

—AND—

Prospective Policy of the Academy



TO HIS EXCELLENCY

The Most Hon. the Marquis of Lansdowne

GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

PATRON OF THE

Royal Canadian Academy of Arts



- 1886 -

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THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE

GOVERNOR-GENERAL,

Patron of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts



MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

On behalf of the Council of the Royal Canadian Academy, I have the honour to present the following report, reviewing its resources, present financial position and prospective policy.

The balance sheet for 1885 is submitted, and also the accounts for the present year up to date, showing our position after the close of the exhibition, the main business of the year being completed.

Our accounts show that for two years we have carried forward a balance of cash apparently somewhat out of proportion to our revenue. This has been done, not because there was no purpose to which we could apply it, but because the sum at our disposal was not large enough to deal success-

fully with the projects we had in view, and we deemed it wiser to husband our resources until we could effect permanent good, rather than fritter them away in premature attempts. We have felt this to be especially necessary in view of the uncertain nature of our income.

It may be well to deal first with the several sources from which our income has been derived. These, so far, have been three:

- 1st. Annual subscriptions of artist members.
- 2nd. Subscriptions of honorary members.
- 3rd. Grants from the Dominion Government.

Upon the first item we ought to be able to reckon with some certainty, but allowance has to be made for arrears arising from the very precarious income derived from the practice of Art. This has been seriously felt during the past three years of depression, during which it has been impossible to collect our members' subscriptions, and much remains unpaid. Our revenue for the current year from this source should be \$510; so far we have only received \$435, of which \$215 was for arrears. In 1885 we only collected \$175.

The second item is the amount contributed annually by our honorary members.

In Lord Lorne's address at the opening of the Academy in 1880, he expressed a hope that every gentleman of note in Canada would be found upon this roll of honorary members,

and give their aid "as entertaining a love for Art, and a desire that Art should be enabled to assist in the most practical manner the interests of the country." This appeal of our founder met, at first, with a liberal response, Lord Lorne himself heading the list with \$500. Exclusive of the Governor-General's subscription, we received from hon. members in 1880, \$1,123; in 1881, \$511; in 1882, \$1,083; in 1883, \$710; in 1884, \$540; in 1885, \$235; and this year \$308, exclusive of your Excellency's donation.

Our published list of honorary members retains the names of many persons who have not continued to subscribe, or to subscribe regularly, and thus conveys an exaggerated idea of the support thus accorded to us. We were reluctant to omit the names of those who had subscribed and promised to continue, but it has been decided by the Council that the list should now show only those who have subscribed regularly, or have otherwise given us valuable assistance.

From the Dominion Government we received, in 1884, a grant of \$2,500, and in 1885, \$2,000.

In considering our expenditure, it is necessary to refer to the objects we have mainly in view, as being those from which most practical benefits to the cause of Art may be expected.

Organization is the first necessity. The administration of the society therefore forms the first main item of expenditure. Under this heading are included the secretary's salary, stationery and printing, and mileage allowed to members of the

Council attending meetings. Last year the expense of administration amounted to \$515.93, which is rather less than the average amount.

Our annual meeting and exhibition is the most important feature of the year's proceedings. First, undoubtedly, among the objects of the Academy should come whatever helps and encourages the artists to the attainment of a higher standard of excellence in their work. Meetings for exhibition and comparison of their works, interchange of thought and mutual criticism, are indispensable.

As an artist can learn nothing from the exhibition of his work unless he himself sees the exhibition, it is most desirable that all should be enabled to attend. In order to attain this it is necessary that some allowance for travelling expenses should be made to those at a distance from the place of exhibition, as well as the payment of freight upon exhibits.

The expense of framing is heavy, and so few pictures are sold, that few artists derive pecuniary gain from the exhibitions, and they are unwilling or unable to afford long journeys to attend them. Hitherto all those not officially required to be present at the annual meeting and exhibition have been obliged to do so at their own expense.

The outlay for the annual meeting and exhibition includes the travelling expenses of the Committee of Arrangements, members of the Council and officers officially required to attend, all necessary cost of rooms, hanging,

lights, printing, etc., and the carriage of pictures to the exhibition. This year we have also paid the return freight of works by members of the Academy.

As an offset to these charges we have, except when the exhibition is held in Montreal, the admission fees of visitors to the exhibition; these, however, have never as yet been sufficient to balance the expenses, and a loss of varying amount has been the result. In 1880, at Ottawa, the net loss was \$901.26; in 1881, at Halifax, \$922.28; in 1882, at Montreal, \$1,045.30 (this included \$300 for the engraving of diplomas, and the Art Association, in giving us the use of their gallery, reserved the admission fees to the exhibition); in 1883, at Toronto, \$861.84; in 1884, at Montreal, \$597.73—an extra exhibition held in St. John, N.B., costing \$736.33; in 1885, at Toronto, the loss was \$252.46; this year, 1886, at Ottawa, the net loss, after paying return freight on pictures, is \$305.47.

In the earlier years of the existence of the Academy, it was our practice to give such small sum as we could afford in aid of Art education in the city where our meeting was held. Our resources, however, with a continually diminishing income from our honorary members' subscriptions, were found barely sufficient for the maintenance of the Society, and keeping up the exhibitions. In the hope of being able to accomplish more, we applied to the Dominion Government for an annual grant, such as is given to the Royal Society, stating our objects and claims in a memorandum which was laid

before the Government of Canada, the members of Parliament and our friends throughout the country. This memorandum set forth the services that the Academy had rendered to the cause of Art by its exhibitions and organization, as well as the establishment, by the gift of our pictures, of the National Gallery at Ottawa. It set forth further the need of higher Art education than that attempted by the existing Art Schools, and prayed for aid to enable us, while keeping up our meetings and exhibitions, to give artists and advanced Art students some such facilities for study as are to be had in other countries.

In reply to this appeal the Government gave the grants already stated, and we hope the aid may be continued; but of this we have no positive assurance.

In 1885 and 1886, we placed \$800 at the disposal of the committees of resident Academicians in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, to be by them expended in aid of study from the life. These grants were intended to enable the Academicians in each city to feel their way to the best method of accomplishing our purpose in each place. In Montreal and Ottawa, the resident committees deemed it best to aid the higher classes of the Art Schools in connection with the Art Associations; this mode of dealing with the question may require some modification in order to give our efforts a wider scope. In Toronto an independent drawing class, for study from the living model, was opened under the direction of the resident Academicians, but has been temporarily discontinued,

as it was found that without competent instruction in anatomy, illustrated by suitable casts, etc., the good results to be expected from serious study of the living model could not be attained. All this requires the expenditure of a much larger sum than the committee had at their disposal, and they therefore determined not to spend more money until they had enough to make their work really effective.

Applications have been made to the Academy for grants in aid of Art Schools on the ground that our grant from the Government was given for distribution among Art Schools. We have already shown that this was not the ground upon which Government aid was asked or obtained. To become the distributing medium for Government aid to Art Schools would be to assume functions outside of our province and destructive to our usefulness. If the Government of Canada desire to give aid to Art Schools, it would be better to give it to them direct. The part assigned to the Academy in Art education is not the same as that of existing Art Schools, but in continuance of it. At present Art students who have gone through the Art School course, and desire such further facilities for study as will fit them for the successful practice of their profession, are obliged to go abroad. While we recognize most fully the value of the artistic training of the Old World, we feel the necessity of making the home education of our artists as complete as possible, and it is this that we are hoping to accomplish.

We are now face to face with the question—How can we best use the means we have in hand, and how can the amount be increased if insufficient?

To recapitulate. The work we have before us is threefold:

1. The administration of the society.
2. Exhibitions and meetings of members.
3. Higher Art education.

Our financial resources are also threefold:

1. Subscriptions of artist members.
2. Subscriptions of honorary members.
3. Grants from the Dominion Government.

The annual subscriptions of artist members should nearly cover the ordinary expenses of administration.

It is certainly desirable that we should rely as much as possible upon the support of the public, and as little as possible upon Government aid. To this end it is desirable that the subscriptions of our honorary members should be devoted to some object in which they may feel a distinct local and personal interest; for higher Art Schools, such as we have indicated, we believe a strong financial support could be obtained in the large cities where, for convenience of artists and Art students, they must necessarily be located.

The exhibitions and meetings of the Academy, although the most important to the cause of Art of all the subjects

upon our programme, do not appeal in the same way to individuals among our supporters ; therefore, these seem the most fitting objects to which the aid of the general Government should mainly be applied, so as to set free the subscriptions of our honorary members, and enable them to be devoted entirely to our scheme of higher Art education.

We have already pointed out the desirability of facilitating the attendance of all our artist members at the annual meetings and exhibitions. To do this, paying 2½c. per mile for the journey as a partial allowance of the expenses, would involve an outlay of about \$1,050, supposing all the members to attend. If we secured the attendance of two-thirds of our present membership, it would add about \$700 to the expense of the annual meeting.

It is manifest that the work of the Academy, be it much or little, must be continuous. Money spent upon any of our objects one year, if not continued the next, is almost thrown away. A comparatively small sum, such as the \$2,000 granted last year by the Government, continued annually, can be employed so as to lay a foundation of Art culture, widening with the progress of the country, and providing for present wants. Much more could be advantageously and profitably done with a larger sum, but whatever amount the Government may see fit to entrust us with can be used to infinitely more advantage if we can rely upon its continuance.

Your Excellency will observe from the foregoing figures:

1. That we calculate upon our expenses of administration being nearly provided for by the annual subscriptions of our artist members.

2. That we must expect to provide for the deficit upon our annual meeting and exhibition, say	\$500
To which it is desirable to add for travelling allowance to members, say	700
	\$1,200

We should then be in a position to devote the remainder of the Government grant and all the subscriptions of our honorary members to such projects of Art education as we have suggested.

We need not remind your Excellency that by our constitution all our acts must be submitted to the Governor-General for his approval, and that we are glad to and do present the account of our expenditure for your Excellency's consideration.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

L. R. O'BRIEN,
President.

TORONTO, March 30th, 1886.

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BALANCE SHEETS

Royal Canadian Academy of Arts

BALANCE SHEET, 1885

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Cash from 1884.....	\$1,534 12	Administration—	
Subscriptions—		Secretary's Salary.....	\$400 00
From Members.....	\$175 00	Mileage.....	28 00
" Honorary Members..	235 00	Printing, Postage, Stationery,	
		etc., etc.....	87 93
			\$515 93
Grant from Dominion Government.....	2,000 00	Loss on Exhibition, 1885.....	232 46
		Expended for Advanced Art Study—	
		Toronto.....	\$100 00
		Montreal.....	100 00
		Ottawa.....	100 00
			300 00
		Balance.....	2,805 73
	\$3,904 12		\$3,904 12

H. LANGLEY,

AUDITOR.

Provisional Balance Sheet

JAN. 1st to MARCH 30th, 1886.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
To balance from 1885.....	\$2,885 73	Administration—	
Subscriptions—		Secretary's Salary.....	\$400 00
From Members.....	\$435 00	Postage, etc.....	6 92
“ Governor-General.....	250 00	Printing, etc.....	35 13
“ Hon. Members.....	308 00	Mch. 19, Mileage to Council meeting.	53 44
	993 00	—	\$ 500 49
		Annual Meeting and Exhibition, 1886—	
		Loss.....	305 47
		Appropriated for Advanced Art Study—	
		Montreal.....	\$175 00
		Ottawa.....	150 00
		Toronto.....	175 00
		—	500 00
		Endowment Fund invested by Trustees....	1,000 00
		Balance.....	1,582 77
	\$3,888 73		\$3,888 73